

Modern Acol – Convention Card.

I have been asked to produce a convention card, which summarises what I teach my classes. I have now done so. The card is largely based on the EBU “Standard English Acol – Modern Acol” convention card, with a few minor modifications which are listed below.

If you play regularly at a Bridge Club it is desirable that you have such a card, to summarise your partnership agreements. Certainly if you play in County Bridge competitions or in other EBU events, such a convention card is essential. You may find it helpful to use my card as a basis of your card. If there are any conventions on the card that you and your partner do not play, or which you treat differently, simply edit the card accordingly.

Differences to note.

1) NT rebids. In Standard English (SE), after a 1-level response, a rebid of 1N shows 15-16, 2N is 17-18 and 3N is 19 points. The card suggests 1N 15-17 and 2N 18-19, which most good players use nowadays. The main advantage is that both partners can “check back” for 5-3 major fits below game.

After a two level response, a 2N rebid is 15-16, non-forcing, in SE. Since a two level response should show 10+ points (with less you respond 1N), 2N is logically forcing to game and shows 15-19. Again, check back is easier.

2) It is useful to have a bid showing a high card raise to a major game on hands not suitable for a splinter, delayed game raise or jump shift. I teach that 1H/S **2NT** shows such a raise with 4+ trump support. This means that 1H/S 4H/S can be reserved for distributional pre-emptive raises.

3) I like to keep Transfer sequences simple. 1N **2N** is still 11-12 (preferably a good 11 to a poor 12). Weak take out to Clubs or Diamonds is via 2C (Stayman). The “redundant” 2S bid is only used for the strong part of Baron, ie a slam try with 17+ points and at least two four card suits (which can be major(s) or minor(s)).

4) Keycard (5 ace) Blackwood, not Roman Keycard Blackwood.

5) In response to 2N, 3S is a redundant bid. It is most useful to show 5+ spades and 4 hearts (game forcing), rather than SEMA which uses it as a general slam try.